Leicester, April 14. 1865.

Dear friend Webb;

I must not longer delay acknowledging your kind note which came with Alfred's, and with the bill of Exchange for £15. 5. 3. They came to hand March 30th, and I have sought to acknowledge each mail since; but just when the writing time came, something else, imperatively demanding to be done, has stepped in between, — & so delay. I have divided & paid over the several amounts — to A. S. Socy, Stand., & Liberator; & we are again indebted to Alfred for kind aid. Let me also now thank him for his letter to me. It was an irrepressible shout of interest in our contest and its results which warmed me & stirred me very much. I read it to Garrison, the first good chance I got, and he was as much pleased as I had been, & asked to have it for the *Liberator*. Tho' clearly a private letter, & with some pretty strong expressions of personal feelings, yet I could see no objection to printing it, provided the name was not given. And so the letter appears in this week's *Liberator*, to which I hope Alfred will feel no repugnance. — I wrote ~~you~~ to Alfred (March 24th), & therein inquired for *H. Thorp*, a name previously reported by him, & which could not be found on the *Standard's* books, as the clerk informed me. The last list gives the name, *Hannah Thorpe*, but without address, — an appendage we always wish for, altho' it is not always necessary.

I have also another note of yours to acknowledge — earlier than the above, of Feb. 15th, — but recd. later, not until April 6th. How it came I know not; but I found it on my desk one morning, when last in Boston. — I at once put in a request to Miss Weston, who happened to be in the office, for a photograph of Mrs. Chapman for Prof. Cairnes. I doubt not to get it, & will also obtain ~~one~~ two of Lowell, as you request, & forward as soon as I get Mrs. C.'s. Lowell's "Squib", to which you refer, — "The Unhappy Lot of Mr. Knott," is published in the Amn. edition of his poems. Is it not in the English? — for doubtless there is an Eng. edition. — I also read to E. Quincy what you said of his "cutting your acquaintance". He cried out for forgiveness, & confessed his sin penitently; but whether he will "do the works meet for repentance" remains to be seen. As he grows older, like other folks, he wants to take life easier. I suppose that, since his father's death, he has, or very soon will, come to a considerable accession of property (a matter wherein in former years he was greatly straitened), & ultimately, when advanced somewhat more in age, & the estate becomes fully divided, he will be wealthy, if we can depend on the statements made of old Mr. Q.'s affairs.

You and Alfred will rejoice with us again in the capture of Petersburg, the consequent Evacuation of Richmond, the masterly following & surrounding of the Rebels by Generals Grant & Sheridan, the Surrender of Lee's Army, and with it the necessarily early close of the War on the part of the Rebel scoundrels, — the stigma of humanity, the disgrace of Civilization, — & at the same time the legitimate & pre-ordained scourge of this land for its long complicity in the sin of Slaveholding. The providential hand was never seen more clearly before. It was meet & fit that we should suffer at the hands of Slavery, in whose service the Nation had sacrificed principle, honour,

I wrote a note to Fenny Wilson, expressing your thanks for his book, as you requested. I enclose

I [illegible]
a picture for [illegible]
Please post it

Consistency; it was meet & right that Slavery should put the suicidal knife to its own throat, as it did. Humanly viewed, the North did not deserve such a return at the hands of the South as she has received; for she was ever the pliant & accommodating partner in her wickedness; but divinely viewed, she did deserve it, & from precisely that quarter. — It is not so apparent to us, — and I believe it never will be, — why we were doomed to feel the power of Gr. Britain essentially on the side of the Rebels, during the whole four years' struggle. It was unlooked for, was (as we believe) most thoroughly shameful & wicked, and has caused an alienation between this Country & those classes in England (numerous, wealthy, & influential) whose sympathies and aid have been so abundant and so powerful, for the Rebellion & against our Country. We do not think, & never shall, that the British Govt. did its duty towards us, either according to treaty obligations, comity, or any other fair international standard. Lord Russell throws dust now, but the effort & object are transparent enough in the light of recent events. Had he simply ordered the Alabama to be detained until her case had been investigated, that one fact would do more on his side than all the speeches and argumentation he ~~[illegible]~~ can make now. The dilatory examination, the long-protracted writing back & forth, all were ample notice enough to the Alabama to depart, (even if no direct hint were ~~[illegible]~~ sent, which it would be difficult to get believed) and her departure in the circumstances was an interpretation of "England's" views & feelings, looked at as one nation — which cannot be overlooked. There can indeed be reparation after mortal fashion. And most desirable it is that there may be the disposition on the part of England to make it, — just as law, reason, & justice demand. We

I wrote a note to Henry Wilson, expressing your thanks for his book, as you requested. I enclose [illegible] a [illegible] Please [illegible]

Ms. B.1.6 v.10. p.24

ask nothing more. Lord Russell's deprecation of th
remarks of Mess. Bright, Forster, &c. — viz. that they encou
the Americans to think that they are wronged, &c. — is not
short of insulting to us, tho' I don't imagine he so meant it
Does he think we cannot see, of ourselves, when we are wr
The whole tone of Parliamentary debate ~~is~~ shows a pleasant & mo
gratifying change, — which we readily accept. ~~If sinc~~
We know it will be met frankly on the part of our Governm
and, if sincere, will result in the admission of America
claims for damage done by "Anglo-Rebel" privateers on
high seas. —

This is the day of the Raising of the Old Flag
Fort Sumter! Only think of the fact that Garrison an
Geo. Thompson have gone thither, by invitation of Secreta
Stanton of the War Department, — the Nation's Guests
We hardly comprehend such changes. — In this wee
Liberator, you will find the leading article (by myself
on that subject. I should like to know just how it stri
you. I have directed an extra copy sent to Alfred, that
may have that, as well as his own letter. Let me tha
you for recent papers, and him for the Address of Mr. Barry
which I duly found here, on my return home last wee

You will doubtless be ahead of any news I c
communicate. The President has been to Richmond
held audiences of different persons in Jeff. Davis's late
mansion — walked thro' its streets (his coming being so
unexpected by our own military authorities there) ha
only a small attendance of marines, &c. but with an imm
crowd of people, two-thirds colored & full of delight, & the
most ~~extravagant~~ overflowing expressions of it. He ha
returned to Washington, & made a characteristic speech
the subject of Reconstruction, wh. I hope you will see.

With sincere regards to Alfred, & to yr. Daughter — Ever affectionately Yours Saml. May, Jr.